

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Vinyl Kraft Inc.

Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Lean Techniques Reduce Labor Costs At Vinyl Kraft

Client Profile:

Vinyl Kraft, Inc. has been a manufacturer of quality vinyl windows and doors for the wholesale and retail remodeling industries since 1953. Located in New Boston, Ohio (part of Rural Economic Development Region 7), the company has 90 employees.

Situation:

Vinyl Kraft realized that as a mid-sized manufacturer, it needs to produce more efficiently to survive in the current manufacturing climate. When the company decided to adopt lean manufacturing to improve efficiency, it sent several representatives to attend a public lean simulation training seminar hosted by TechSolve, a NIST MEP network affiliate. Vinyl Kraft's plant manager and production engineer immediately recognized the value that TechSolve could bring to their own lean initiative, and asked the organization to participate. Vinyl Kraft applied for and received partial funding through grant monies to continue its lean journey.

Solution:

TechSolve conducted a five-day value stream mapping (VSM) event at Vinyl Kraft. TechSolve mapped one of Vinyl Kraft's main product lines to identify production waste points and potential bottlenecks. The data were collected and used to develop both a current state and future state VSM. These maps helped TechSolve generate an action plan to solve Vinyl Kraft's process problems. By streamlining plant layout and reducing set-up times, Vinyl Kraft's lean initiative gained the momentum to complete a second project. TechSolve completed a workplace organization (5S) training and deployment event that reorganized three production lines and resulted in a cleaner, safer work environment.

Results:

Reduced labor costs by \$1.00 per unit (\$70,000 in labor reduction over the past year).
Created a cleaner, more organized, and streamlined production line.
Reduced set-up times.

Testimonial:

www.mep.nist.gov



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"The services that TechSolve offered us were exactly what we needed to continue our lean journey. TechSolve's engineers were very knowledgeable and facilitated very well. They had practical experience from a manufacturing background that I liked."

Tim Rolfe, Plant Manager